

Amdt. dated December 30, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 have been amended, and claims 7-17 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-17 are presently pending, with claim 1 being independent.

The amendments to claims 1-6 have been made only to place the claims into conformity with U.S. practice. That is to say, the amendments to claims 1-6 made herein are not intended to affect the scope of the claims pending in the PCT application. Therefore, in view of the favorable International Preliminary Examination Report, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are allowable. New claims 7-17 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1-6 and should also be allowable.

Therefore, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted

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(Docket No.35717)